The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains much information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WE PLEDGE—
1 BILLION DOLLARS
Gallant
WAR SAVINGS BONDS
FOR VICTORY

WHOLE NO. 1758 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1944 GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer VOL. 34, NO. 51

Green Opposes Carving Up Of Poland, Urges U. S. To Veto Churchill's Plan

New York City.—Hope that America will say "no" to those who seek to carve up Poland's territory was expressed by AFL President William Green at a meeting here of the American Labor Conference on International Affairs.

The statement brought resounding applause from the audience of more than a thousand at the Hotel Commodore, who also cheered when he added:

"I know you share with me a feeling of apprehension over what has happened in the last few days. In waging this war we have been inspired by noble ideals and high purposes. Surely we are not going to engage now in invading the territorial rights of men and women living in countries which have fought and suffered so much."

Calling on Americans to remember the lessons of history, Mr. Green declared that the portioning of territory, whenever and wherever it has occurred, "has sown the seeds of another war." It seems inconceivable that America should lend herself to such policies now, he said.

This portion of Mr. Green's talk was an extemporaneous addition to his prepared address but it reflected the feeling of distrust and disgust with power politics which permeated the three sessions of the conference.

Appropriately enough, the meeting was on the subject of "Labor and the Future Peace" and the resolutions produced at the morning session dealing with Dumbarton Oaks, voiced the group's reluctance to accept the limitings made there as any more than a step toward an adequate organization for the maintenance of world peace.

It stressed that "after a period of transition, all nations, not just the 'peace-loving nations'" be admitted to the organization; asked that the Assembly, composed of all states, "be given more important functions as the basis of the whole international organization;" proposed that "excessive dominance" given to four or at most five great powers in the Security Council be eased and that, instead of unanimity to act against an aggressor nation, a two-thirds majority be substituted.

Still further, the resolution suggested that the Security Council should have a continuing policy for the reduction of armaments and that the peace organization as a whole should set up "a system of international trusteeship" for colonies of Axis countries and mandated areas.

In his prepared talk, Mr. Green gave four major reasons why the AFL has refused to participate in the so-called world labor conference called by the British Trades Union Congress. These reasons were:

1—Such a conference should be called by the established international organization, the International Federation of Trade Unions, after consultation with its affiliated bodies and not by a single member of the group, the BTUC.

2—The conference cannot promote international unity because the promiscuous invitations issued by the BTUC to dual labor groups will only cause intensification of labor disunity within nations such as the United States and Canada.

3—The AFL cannot participate in a conference where governmental and governmental-dominated unions, which follow totalitarian philosophies, are represented.

4—Labor representatives from neutral countries still under Axis domination have been invited, yet they cannot speak for their constituents.

"The American Federation of Labor favors the holding of a world conference of labor convened under proper auspices at an appropriate time," Mr. Green concluded. "This conference must be made up of the representatives of free, democratic trade unions, organized and administered by the workers themselves and free from governmental domination and control."

Merry Christmas!

To every one of its loyal members the American Federation of Labor wishes a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

To its million and a half members now serving in the armed forces the American Federation of Labor especially wishes to extend holiday greetings, together with the hope that they will be able to come home safely before long and enjoy the fruits of hard-earned victory. And that goes for every other American boy and girl wearing our country's uniform.

The workers of America are resolved to break all past production records in the coming months in order to hasten the day of victory and assure the safe return of the nation's fighting forces.

May the New Year bring peace on earth to all men of good will—a peace that will last not only through our times but for many generations to come.

Senators Propose Jobs-For-All Plan To Be Guaranteed By Federal Budget

Washington, D. C.—A new, far-reaching plan making the Government responsible for guaranteeing every American a job after the war was submitted to a group of Senate investigators for action by the next session of Congress.

The key provision of the new program calls for the setting up of a new kind of Federal budget—a production and employment budget—which would require the Government to spend appropriate whatever funds may be necessary, over and above investments and expenditures by all other individuals or groups—to provide 60,000,000 or more jobs each year.

This plan was drafted in legislative form by the War Contracts Subcommittee of the Senate Military Affairs Committee and made public by Senator James E. Murray, chairman of the group. It was conceded that it may become the major legislative proposal of the next Congress.

The committee also presented a detailed analysis of the various other industrial demobilization acts and calls the war mobilization and reconversion act "a defective instrument" and one dealing with the problems of transition from war to peace." It suggests supplemental legislation for:

1—Improve unemployment compensation.

2—Provide travel allowances to allow migrant war workers to return home.

3—Authorize $150,000,000 in loans by the Federal Works Agency to help local communities develop plans for post-war public works.

4—Authorize construction loans by the Smaller War Plants Corp.

The legislative draft made public by Senator Murray is entitled the "Declaration of Policy," which says, in part:

"The Congress hereby declares that:

"(a) Every American able to work and willing to work has the right to a useful and remunerative job in the industries, or shops, or offices, or farms or mines of the nation.

"(b) It is the responsibility of the Government to guarantee that right by assuring continuing full employment; and

"(c) It is the policy of the Government to assure continuing full employment by (1) encouraging, to the fullest extent possible Federal investment and other expenditure, the highest feasible levels of employment in private enterprise, (2) providing whatever volume of Federal investment and other expenditures may be needed to assure continuing full employment."

The committee report explained:

"The proposed bill sets up a new type of budget to carry out the policy of necessary Federal investment and expenditure—a national production and employment budget.

"This new budget would deal with the total amount of investment and expenditure by all groups in the country—consumers, business, state and local governments, and the Federal government. It would be made up, on the one hand, of the total expenditures needed to guarantee full employment and, on the other hand, of prospective total expenditures. Accordingly, a two-fold program is set forth for balancing the national production and employment budget.

"There is to be a general program for encouraging increased non-Federal investment and expenditure. They may call for new policies dealing with banking and credit, taxation, wages and working conditions, social security and related fields.

"To the extent that this program may not be sufficient to balance the budget, a second program is called for—a program of Federal investment and expenditure. This program could include specific programs for assistance to business, public works, public services, conservation and other public activities. A provision is added calling for the performance of all public construction work by private concerns."

"The general outlines of both programs are to be submitted to Congress on the first day of each session along with the regular budget for the operations of the Federal Government," the bill declares. Both budgets are to be submitted by the Bureau of the Budget under the direction of the President.

In a statement which accompanied the proposed bill Sen. Murray declared that it is not enough to provide an easy and automatic solution to the problem of full employment.

"It should be emphasized," he added, "that the bill represents a clear break with the so-called 'compensatory spending' approach of the past. This is not just a bill to take up the slack through added works. It is founded on the premise that we can't just sit around and wait until people are out of work before we do something about promoting employment. I, for one, am convinced that realistic policies toward small private business will open up vast new horizons of private business expansion."

New Social Security Plan Promised By FDR As He Signs Tax Rate Freeze

Washington, D. C. — President Roosevelt "reluctantly" approved the controversial legislation freezing the social security pay-roll tax at 1 per cent for another year.

At the same time he promised to submit soon a "comprehensive plan for broadening and improving the social security system" for action by the next Congress.

The President's statement said:

"Two matters should be clearly understood. The Congress should realize that this bill, deferring a desirable increase in contributions toward existing social security, merely defers until later the necessary fiscal receipts to pay the benefits. Also, it does not seem wholly sound to enact a tax law and then defer the taxes year after year.

"The public will understand that as a nation we are committed to social security and will undoubtedly increase and not decrease its benefits. Already some other nations have a larger degree of social security than we do. This bill in no way modifies the benefits provided by the present law. But it will be incumbent upon the next Congress thoroughly to review the methods of financing them.

"At an early date I plan to submit to the Congress a comprehensive plan for broadening and improving the social security system. At that time I hope that a clear understanding of the government's financial responsibilities for social security will emerge and that a long-term plan for meeting the costs of social security will be developed. The extensive spending by the government will always stand ready to assist the Congress in working out a satisfactory solution."

Wage Bottom Of 65 Cents Asked

Washington, D. C.—The annual National Labor Conference adopted a resolution unanimously recommending that "all states move as rapidly as possible to extend the benefits of legal minimum wage rates of not less than 65 cents an hour to all workers."

The committee on state regulation of wages, hours and home work proposed that an effective minimum wage law should establish a basic minimum for women and minors and that no man should be paid less than the minimum.

It also recommended that provision for raising the standard minimum upon recommendation of industry wage boards representing employers, workers and the public be approved. Both proposals also were adopted unanimously.

In a section on equal pay for men and women, the conference recognized that during the transition from war to peace employment opportunities would decrease, resulting in greater competition for jobs.

Labor Spurs Output Jump Of "Critical" War Items

AFL Opess Radio Series Jan. 7

Washington, D. C.—The American Federation of Labor wants to make a date with every one of its seven million members and all their relatives and friends within reach of a radio for Jan. 7 and every week thereafter throughout 1945.

On Jan. 7 the AFL opens its new series of weekly radio programs. For the first thirteen weeks of the year these programs will be carried each Sunday at 1:15 P.M., E.W.T., over a nation-wide NBC network. Later the Columbia Broadcasting System and the Blue Network will carry the programs, but at different time periods.

The first program will take up the problems of "Must Production." The invited guest will be Lieut. Gen. W. D. Styer, *Chief of Staff of the Army Service Forces.* After a brief preliminary statement he will answer questions from a "National Unity Panel," made up as follows:

For the American Federation of Labor—Paul Hall. For the United States Chamber of Commerce—Dr. Emerson P. Schmidt. For the National Farmers Union—Paul Sifton.

The final half of the program will be devoted to extemporaneous discussion among the members of the panel on various aspects of the production problem.

In the following weeks many other important issues will be taken up in turn for discussion by highly distinguished guests and by the panel members.

11 Per Cent Increase In Month "Wonderful," Says WPB Chief

Washington, D. C.—Describing November as a "wonderful" month for critical munitions production, Hiland G. Batchelder, acting chairman of the War Production Board, revealed that the 15 critical programs spurted 11 per cent ahead of October levels.

Stating that "we are now making tremendous progress," Batchelder cautioned that the programs still call for "tremendous" increases which can only be achieved by use of "all our resources in manpower and facilities."

To illustrate, he stated that it has just been decided to construct possibly 40 million dollars to 50 million dollars worth of new tire-making plants, some of them "from the ground up," to create additional tire-making capacity capable of producing 4 million more tires a year.

Going over the critical programs one by one, he stated that a "miracle of production" has been accomplished in boosting production of B-29 Superfortresses 37 per cent between June and November, but indicated that present volume must be roughly doubled before expanding schedules can be satisfied.

In November, 30 per cent more Superfortresses were produced than in October to bring the total 3 per cent above schedule for the month.

Most dramatic gain cited by Batchelder was that of 262 per cent rise in Navy rocket production over June. November production was 7 per cent above October levels, 3 per cent ahead of schedule, he said. But production must continue to expand from the present 15 million dollars a month rate to a rate of 75 million dollars a month, he said.

Batchelder, WPB chief of operations, conducted the press conference in the absence of WPB Chairman J. A. Krug, who is on the West Coast inspecting war plant installations.

In October, critical programs showed a 6 per cent increase over September, Batchelder stated.

The critical production situation prompted the recent announcement by War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes that Selective Service would resume the induction of men in the 26-through-37 age bracket who quit war jobs or were engaged in non-essential activities.

Batchelder said he had "great hopes" of making use of plants whose war contracts have run out to make critical items. He said it was preferable to use the manpower in such plant where it is "organized into a team" to moving it to other plants.

THREE NEW OFFICERS NAMED BY MACHINISTS

Washington, D. C.—Three changes in the official family of the International Association of Machinists highlighted a special meeting of the machinists' executive council held in Washington. The council unanimously confirmed the three appointments made by President Harvey W. Brown.

Vice President Eric Peterson was named secretary-treasurer to succeed the late Emmett C. Davison, who died three weeks ago after serving in the position for 27 years.

Samuel L. Newman, one of the union's two temporary additional wartime vice presidents, fills Peterson's vacancy as a regular vice president, and A. J. Hayes, Machinists' grand lodge representative at Milwaukee, was elevated to Newman's former position.

UNION SENDS GIFTS TO ITS SERVICEMEN

St. Louis—Something unique in the way of holiday cheer for its members in service was announced by the Local 1 of the Electrical Workers.

The local is sending a $10 Christmas check to each of its 482 members in uniform, both at home and abroad. Along with the gift, the local is mailing engraved cards bearing the I. B. E. W. seal and this message:

"We are proud of you boys and your magnificent record of achievement during the past year. We sincerely hope that complete victory will soon be yours and that you will be heading back to the old home town where we, as well as your loved ones, will be awaiting you."

FEDERAL COURT KILLS IOWA ANTI-LABOR LAW

Washington, D. C.—Labor officials hailed a Federal Court decision in Iowa which knocked out a state law placing a six months' time limit on suits for back pay under the Wage-Hour Act.

Law is one of a half dozen states which in the past few years put over statutes drastically cutting down the time in which to sue employers who chisel on pay legally due their workers.

Heretofore, workers have had the same right as business men and others in suing for money due them—that is, they could begin court action at any time within the six-year statute of limitations.

CIO "Shadow-Boxing," Green Charges, As Murray Rejects AFL Peace Bid

Washington, D. C.—CIO President Philip Murray rejected AFL demands for resumption of conferences for unification of the American labor movement and offered instead a proposal for united policies by the two organizations while dualism continues.

AFL President William Green promptly branded Mr. Murray's answering letter as "shadowing-boxing and pretense." He insisted there can be no effective "national" unity without real "organic" unity. Mr. Green's statement follows:

"I interpret Mr. Murray's letter as a flat refusal on the part of the CIO to meet the American Federation of Labor's appeals for resumption of conferences seeking a united labor movement in America. The only way to achieve unity is to unite organically. This is labor's greatest need now and in the post-war period, yet Mr. Murray turns a deaf ear toward it.

"Instead Mr. Murray offers the same sort of phoney, functional unity which the CIO has often prated about in the past. Our experiences during this war have taught us that it is impossible to maintain united labor policies on a national scale at the top while division, dualism and bitter discord continue to be the field.

"The unalterable fact remains that two national labor organizations cannot co-exist in America without serious injury to the nation's workers and the cause of progress. There is room for only one united labor movement in our country. The inevitable shock of post-war economic readjustment will make this clear. I deeply regret that Mr. Murray and his associates in the CIO do not yet realize the dangers that face labor and are content merely with shadow boxing and pretense."

Electrical Worker's War Heroism Wins Him Highest Army Decoration

New York City.—For single-handedly wiping out two machinegun nests and capturing an enemy sniper on the Normandy beach on D-Day, Sgt. Richard J. Gallagher, son of Mrs. Katherine Gallagher, 151 Grant Avenue, Brooklyn, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, highest Army honor that can be conferred by an overseas commander, Gallagher is a member of Local No. 3, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, and employed at Consolidated Fire Alarm Co., before joining the Army in May, 1942.

Accredited with "extraordinary heroism," Sgt. Gallagher's company was pinned down by heavy enemy fire on D-Day, June 6, when he decided to advance, alone, to investigate the enemy gun emplacements. Undetected by the enemy, he crawled to within 30 yards of the mines and up a slope to a machinegun nest which had been inflicting heavy casualties on his company. He killed the crew of the gun, then left the gun emplacement and then returned to the beach to lead part of his company through the mined field and to the more forward position.

When the company was pinned down, Gallagher again proceeded forward and to the top of the hill, where he discovered another enemy machinegun in a wooded area. He was not only captured the man who had fired on him, but also brought back a number of snipers hiding from the cliff.

In the words of the Army citation: "The tenacity of purpose, skill and personal bravery demonstrated by him reflect great credit on himself and are in keeping with the highest traditions of the Armed Forces."

In addition to his DSC, Gallagher has been awarded the Combat Infantry Badge. A brother, John A., Chief Pharmacist Mate, serving in the Pacific, has been recommended for the Navy Cross, Navy equivalent of the DSC. Another brother, Staff Sgt. William H. Gallagher, made the initial landings with the Marines on Guadalcanal and other Pacific islands and is now serving with the Army in Italy. Another brother, Thomas A. Gallagher, Technician Fifth Grade, is serving with a Railway Operating Battalion in western Europe and the fifth son in the family, Robert J. Gallagher, is a member of Local No. 3, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL, employed at Automatic Fire Alarm, New York City.

Labor Warns WLB Hurts Arbitration

Washington, D. C.—Labor members of the National War Labor Board have warned unions against private arbitration of wage issues so long as the WWLB insists on lining wages above wage formulae but refuses to increase those falling short.

Their action came in the form of rejection with a WLB decision in a case involving Local 6 of the Hotel employees Association of San Francisco and the AFL Amalgamated Lithographers.

An arbitration panel denied a wage increase. On review the San Francisco regional board reversed the arbitration award and ordered a wage increase. The Labor Board in Washington, Reversing this, the national board approved the panel's decision.

Labor members, in dissenting opinions said:

"Simple candor on our part requires that the workers of this nation be told the conflict between the announced procedures of the board and its actual decisions are such that they will be advised to refrain from entering voluntary arbitration agreements which are subject to review by the National War Labor Board.

"To stipulate that arbitrators' awards are to be respected only when they give as much or less than board wage policy permits is to urge the elimination of arbitration proceedings during the life of the WLB."

AFL Seeks Fund To Win W.U. Vote

Washington, D. C.—AFL President William Green appealed to all AFL unions to give financial support to a fund being raised to help the Commercial Telegraphers Union win the collective bargaining elections among the Western Union employees to be held between Dec. 20 and Jan. 10. Seven regional elections will be conducted by the NLRB.

Mr. Green pointed out that the Executive Council and the AFL Convention authorized this appeal because the issues incurred in waging a nation-wide election campaigns will be extremely heavy.

"We can win this election for the American Federation of Labor if sufficient funds are made available in order to meet the cost and expenses of said election campaign," Mr. Green said in a circular letter.

Next year's AFL convention, the International Association of Machinists announced that it would make a cash contribution to the CTU campaign and other unions indicated, through their representatives, that they would follow suit in order to help the AFL union win its vital struggle with a rival CIO unit. Condemnation for the NLRB's action in splitting the election into seven regional units was widely expressed.

AFL Council Makes First Donation To Free Trade Union Fund Campaign

New York City.—With the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor voting the first substantial contribution of $1,000, the Free Trade Union Committee's January campaign to raise a million dollars to help rebuild democratic trade unions abroad has swing into high.

According to Matthew Woll, chairman of the committee, which was recently set up by the AFL's official relief arm, the Labor League for Human Rights, state federations of labor and international unions in this country are extending their fullest cooperation to the drive.

The British Federation of Labor, Mr. Woll announced, has appealed to every central labor body in the land to support the committee, declaring, "Workers of Europe, we have heard your cry! It will not be silent!" Other state federations of labor are following suit, and scores of international and national unions are mobilizing the aid of their affiliates to the campaign.

Among the international unions which have endorsed the aims of the Free Trade Union Committee and pledged their support to its million-dollar fund, are the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, the Teamsters' Union, the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes, the Hotel and Restaurant Workers, the Painters and Decorators, the Brotherhood of Paper Makers, the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers, the Photo-Engravers, the Amalgamated Meat Cutters, the State, County and Municipal Employes, the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen, and the Upholsterers International Union.

Central labor bodies and local unions have donated by resolutions and regional directors of the Labor League for Human Rights in conducting Free Trade Union Committee's appeal, Mr. Woll said.

"The total destruction for which the Axis has been responsible can be met in a manner worthy our mobilization to win the war in the field of relief, and that problem is one of relief, and finally by contributing to a permanent and just peace through the reestablishment of truly free trade union movements in other lands. If we succeed, no sacrifice will have been in vain."

Army Leader Offers Helping Hand To Free Labor Movement In Italy

Rome, Italy.—Since the Labor Subcommission of the Allied Commission first began its work in Sicily in September 1943, it has made every effort to abolish Fascist labor controls, establish state labor offices and provide a genuine opportunity for the formation of free and representative labor unions, Col. Junius R. Smith, Acting Director, declared in an interview.

"In Sicily, and later throughout Italy, we told the Italian people, through proclamations, of their right to organize and of their rights in collective bargaining," he said.

"Labor organization has been greatly handicapped by lack of transportation and communication, and with a lack of experienced leadership, inevitable after 22 years of complete Fascist domination. American and British labor delegates have met with Italian workers throughout liberated Italy and with the Italian General Confederation of Labor at Rome, and have pledged the intelligent support in urging that the new unions be free from political party domination and made truly democratic and representative of all the workers."

The uncertain and changing political situation in Italy, according to Col. Smith, has caused delay on the part of the Italian government in enacting legislation to recognize and develop the labor offices established by the Allied Military government to provide the necessary functions of the state in labor relations, public employment service, and labor standards. The Italian Government's Minister of Labor, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Labor are committed to the adoption of these necessary functions of the state, as in Great Britain and the United States and legislation is now pending in this field. A national commission has also been appointed for the reestablishment of social security structure.

Col. Smith promised:

"As part of Allied Commission, we shall continue to do our best to advise, and support in every way possible the hopes and ambitions of the working man. We know from experience throughout the world that the best guarantee of freedom is a well-informed intelligent group of independent thinkers. We are anxious to see a healthy labor movement and trade unions built up on the basis of the working man but for the part it will play in the economic reconstruction of the country."

STRIKES HOSE DIVE DOWN TO NEW LOW

Washington, D. C.—Time lost by strikes has taken a nose-dive, the Department of Labor revealed.

During October, the last month for which figures are available, man-days lost from work stoppage amounted to 960,000, or a mere 9/100 of 1 per cent of time put in by the nation's workers.

That's a decline of 822,834 man-days below losses from strikes for the corresponding month a year ago, the department said.

SIXTY MILLION JOBS PRACTICAL, SAYS HEDGES

Louisville, Ky.—America's capacity for output in great enough to provide sixty million jobs after the war at decent wages, Marion H. Hedges, research director of the Brotherhood, told the Workers' Educational Council here.

He will take an annual income of 150 to 165 billion dollars to make that many jobs," he said. "But, we can reach that. War and civilian production combined are now running at that rate or better."